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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

418268782US

Application Number

09/681,488-Conf.
#3974

Filed

April 16, 2001

First Named Inventor

Gavrilescu et al.

Art Unit

2157

Examiner

A. M. Gold

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐

applicant /inventor.

☐

assignee of record of the entire interest.
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b)
is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)

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attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.

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Sep. 27, 2005
Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

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*Total of 1 forms are submitted.



Express Mail No. EV729044378US
Docket No.: 418268782US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Gavrilescu et al.

Application No.: 09/681,488

Confirmation No.: 3974

Filed: April 16, 2001

Art Unit: 2157

For: WEB SITE COBROWSING

Examiner: A. M. Gold

Arguments for Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants are filing a Notice of Appeal and Pre-Approval Brief Request for Review.

Claims 1-37 are pending. The last Office Action rejected claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,444 ("Fin") either alone or in view of other references.

Issue

Do the applied references teach or suggest that one client shares a cookie with another client?

Cookies

The hypertext transfer protocol ("HTTP") is a stateless protocol in that a web server does not maintain information between requests that are sent by a client computer. Although being stateless simplifies a web server, it limits the capabilities of the web server because information from a previous request is not available to help process a current request. To overcome the limitation of being stateless, the Internet Engineering Taskforce added cookies to HTTP. A cookie contains information exchanged between a web server and a client computer, such as state information associated with a web session. The client computer saves the cookie and provides the cookie to the web server with subsequent requests. The web server may in turn update in a response information contained in the cookie. Thus, a cookie can be used to store state information on behalf of a web server even when preserving the stateless nature of the web server.

Applicant's Technology

Applicants' technology enables multiple client computers to establish a cobrowsing web session with one another. When a user of a first client performs actions in a browser during a cobrowsing web session, e.g., by loading a web page, scrolling the web page, navigating to a link contained in the web page, etc., other cobrowsing clients perform similar actions so that users of the cobrowsing clients can see the same results (e.g., web page) as the first client. In a cobrowsing session, a web server may provide a cookie to the first client. The web server,

however, would provide a different cookie to each cobrowsing client. If each cobrowsing client were to send its own cookie to the web server, the web server may customize the response to each client based on the information of each cookie. As a result, each cobrowsing client may see a different web page, thereby potentially disabling cobrowsing. Instead, applicants' technology may send an indication of a cookie ("sharing a cookie") associated with web pages being browsed by the first client to cobrowsing clients. A cobrowsing client can then use the cookie to ensure that the user of the cobrowsing client sees the same web pages and web page content as the user of the first client.

The Applied References Neither Teach Nor Suggest Sharing a Cookie

All the independent claims recite sending a cookie from a client to a cobrowsing client. As previously stated in the applicants' response of March 15, 2005 ("applicants' last response") at pages 12-14, none of the applied references teaches or suggests a client sharing a cookie with another cobrowsing client. According to the last Office Action, Fin fails to teach or suggest using a cookie, but Quatrano teaches using a cookie "for web sites transmitted between collaborative computing devices." (See, e.g., last Office Action at pages 3 and 12.) However, Quatrano merely describes the conventional technique of a server sending different cookies to multiple client computing devices. (See applicants' last response, pages 12-14.) The last Office Action does not indicate that any of the applied references other than Quatrano teaches using cookies in a cobrowsing environment and the applicants are unable to find such a teaching.

According to claim 1 of the instant application, a client computing device that browses a web site sends an indication of a cookie of the web site to another client as part of a synchronization message. This is in sharp contrast to the conventional technique of a server sending different cookies to clients, as described by Quatrano.

Thus, the Examiner has not provided any teaching or suggestion indicating "sending a synchronization message by the first client to the second client, the

synchronization message indicating at least one command comprising an indication of a cookie of the web site," as is recited by claim 1. Independent claim 30 similarly recites "receiving a synchronization message by the second client from the first client, the synchronization message indicating at least one command comprising an indication of a cookie." Claim 37 similarly recites "sending a synchronization message by the first client to the second client, the synchronization message indicating at least one command comprising an indications of the determined action and a cookie, the at least one command for causing the second client to cobrowse in accordance with the synchronization message."

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of this preliminary amendment. If the Examiner has any questions or matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

Dated: *Sep. 23, 2005*

Respectfully submitted,

By


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EXHIBIT 1

PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for a first user to cobrowse a plurality of pages formatted according to one or more markup languages and organized into one or more web sites with a second user comprising:

initiating a cobrowsing session between a first client of the first user and a second client of the second user;

browsing a web site on the first client by the first user;

sending a synchronization message by the first client to the second client, the synchronization message indicating at least one command comprising an indication of a cookie of the web site;

receiving the synchronization message by the second client; and

cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user in accordance with the synchronization message, wherein the cobrowsing uses the indication of the cookie to access the web site.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating browsing on the first client, sending the synchronization message by the first client, receiving the synchronization message by the second client, and cobrowsing on the second client until the cobrowsing session is terminated.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating the cobrowsing session between the first client of the first user and the second client of the second user is in accordance with a preexisting protocol.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the preexisting protocol is the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein browsing the web site on the first client by the first user comprises browsing a new page of the web site, such that the synchronization message indicates the current page being navigated as the new page.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user comprises opening a new browser window for the current page where no other browser window is open for the cobrowsing session on the second client.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein browsing of the web site on the first client by the first user comprises scrolling within the current page at least one of vertically and horizontally such that the current relative position on the current page being navigated and viewed is changed, such that the synchronization message indicates the current relative position as changed, causing cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly scroll within the current page.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the current relative position on the current page being navigated is indicated in accordance with a preexisting model specifying page layout.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the preexisting model is the Document Object Model (DOM).

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the group of commands further comprises a portion of the current page being highlighted by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the portion of the current page being highlighted, causing cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly highlight the portion of the current page.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the group of commands further comprises a change of focus from a first browser window to a second browser window by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the change of focus, causing cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly change focus from a first browser window on the second client to a second browser window of the second client.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the group of commands further comprises a resizing of a browser window by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the resizing, causing cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly resize a browser window on the second client.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the synchronization message and receiving the synchronization message are received in accordance with a preexisting protocol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the preexisting protocol is one of: the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the synchronization message is formatted in accordance with an extension to a preexisting protocol.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the preexisting protocol is the Session Description Protocol (SDP).

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising terminating the cobrowsing session.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising passing control of the cobrowsing session from the first client of the first user to the second client of the second user.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the group of commands further comprises a transfer of control of the cobrowsing session from the first client to the second client, such that the synchronization message indicates the transfer of control.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the group of commands further comprises a request to obtain control of the cobrowsing session by the second client from the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the request to obtain control.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
browsing a web site on the second client by the second user;
sending a synchronization message by the second client to the first client, the synchronization message indicating at least one command selected from the group of commands comprising: a current page of the web site being browsed on the second client by the second user and a current relative position on the current page being navigated and viewed by the second user on the second client;
receiving the synchronization message by the first client; and,
cobrowsing the web site on the first client by the first user in accordance with the synchronization message.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising repeating browsing on the second client, sending the synchronization message by the second client, receiving the synchronization message by the first client, and cobrowsing on the first client until the cobrowsing session is terminated.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for execution by a processor of a first client to perform a method for a first user to cobrowse a plurality of pages formatted according to one or more markup languages and organized into one or more web sites with a second user, the method comprising:

initiating a cobrowsing session between the first client of the first user and a second client of the second user;

browsing a web site on the first client by the first user; and

sending a synchronization message by the first client to the second client, the synchronization message indicating at least one command comprising an indication of a cookie of the web site, wherein the second client receives the synchronization message and cobrowses the web site in accordance with the synchronization message and uses the indication of the cookie when accessing the web site.

24. (Original) The medium of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises repeating browsing the web site and sending the synchronization message until the cobrowsing session is terminated.

25. (Original) The medium of claim 23, wherein browsing the web site on the first client by the first user comprises browsing a new page of the web site, such that the synchronization message indicates the current page being navigated as the new page.

26. (Original) The medium of claim 23, wherein browsing of the web site on the first client by the first user comprises scrolling within the current page at least one of vertically and horizontally such that the current relative position on the current page being navigated and viewed is changed, such that the synchronization message indicates the current relative position as changed, causing cobrowsing the

web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly scroll within the current page.

27. (Original) The medium of claim 23, wherein the group of commands further comprises a portion of the current page being highlighted by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the portion of the current page being highlighted, causing cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly highlight the portion of the current page.

28. (Original) The medium of claim 23, wherein the group of commands further comprises a change of focus from a first browser window to a second browser window by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the change of focus, causing cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly change focus from a first browser window on the second client to a second browser window of the second client.

29. (Original) The medium of claim 23, wherein the group of commands further comprises a resizing of a browser window by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the resizing, causing cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user to correspondingly resize a browser window on the second client.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for execution by a processor of a second client to perform a method for a second user to cobrowse a plurality of pages formatted according to one or more markup languages and organized into one or more web sites with a first user, the method comprising:

initiating a cobrowsing session between a first client of the first user and the second client of the second user;

receiving a synchronization message by the second client from the first client, the synchronization message indicating at least one command comprising an indication of a cookie; and cobrowsing the web site on the second client by the second user in accordance with the synchronization message and using the indication of the cookie when cobrowsing.

31. (Original) The medium of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises repeating receiving the synchronization message and cobrowsing the web site until the cobrowsing session is terminated.

32. (Original) The medium of claim 30, wherein the first user browses a new page of the web site on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the current page being navigated as the new page, and cobrowsing the web site comprises cobrowsing the new page.

33. (Original) The medium of claim 30, wherein the first user scrolls within the current page at least one of vertically and horizontally on the first client such that the current relative position on the current page being navigated and viewed is changed, such that the synchronization message indicates the current relative position as changed, and cobrowsing the web site comprises correspondingly scrolling within the current page.

34. (Original) The medium of claim 30, wherein the first user highlights a portion of the current page on the first client and the group of commands further comprises the portion of the current page being highlighted by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the portion of the current page being highlighted and cobrowsing the web site comprises correspondingly highlighting the portion of the current page.

35. (Original) The medium of claim 30, wherein the first user changes focus from a first browser window to a second browser window on the first client and the group of commands further comprises a change of focus from the first browser window to the second browser window by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the change of focus and cobrowsing the web site comprises correspondingly changing focus from a first browser window on the second client to a second browser window of the second client.

36. (Original) The medium of claim 30, wherein first user resizes a browser window on the first client and the group of commands further comprises a resizing of the browser window by the first user on the first client, such that the synchronization message indicates the resizing and cobrowsing the web site comprises correspondingly resizing a browser window on the second client.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for cobrowsing a plurality of pages formatted according to one or more markup languages and organized into one or more web sites, comprising:

- initiating a cobrowsing session between a first client and a second client;

- browsing a web site on the first client;

- determining using a document object model an action performed at the first client; and

- sending a synchronization message by the first client to the second client, the synchronization message indicating at least one command comprising indications of the determined action and a cookie, the at least one command for causing the second client to cobrowse in accordance with the synchronization message.